

THE UNION.

INDUSTRY MAKES THE DESERT BLOOM, WHILE IDLENESS LEADS TO RUIN.

Vol. 2.

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No. 1.

(From "Vick's Floral Guide.") IMPROVEMENTS.

A few years since the log cabin with its well-sweep, and rail fence and bars, and its yard covered with wood and chips, were seen on almost every country road. We have nothing to say against log cabins. They were proper for a new and wooded country, and sometimes picturesque—a necessity and a blessing. Many noble men have commenced life in log cabins, but we observe that they did not stay in them longer than necessary. But in the settled country the log cabin has gone, never to return. A few, however, outlive their day and usefulness, and put on a thriftless aspect, generally characteristic of their present owners. Their places were soon occupied by little wooden box-like cottages, usually painted white with intense green blinds. The yard was cleared of chips and surrounded with a neat fence, a straight walk leading from the street to the front door, while a few beds, bordered with shalls or ~~seeds~~, contained Poppies, Bachelor's Buttons, Grass Planks and Sweet Williams. Ho lyhocks and Lillies added both beauty and fragrance to the little home garden. A narrow border in the background contain-

we have tried to show in the engraving. (See cuts.) By a little labor the children can make real pictures of the old weather-beaten school houses, and will take an interest in the work, if encouraged to do so. The boys will make a rustic porch over the door which may soon be covered with vines. The girls will make hanging baskets for the windows and plant ferns on the cool shady side of the building, and form flower beds in the sunshine. Children will learn all the better with these fair things about them, and acquire taste and refinement which will sweeten and beautify all their lives, the result of which, in the great future, no philosopher is wise enough to tell.

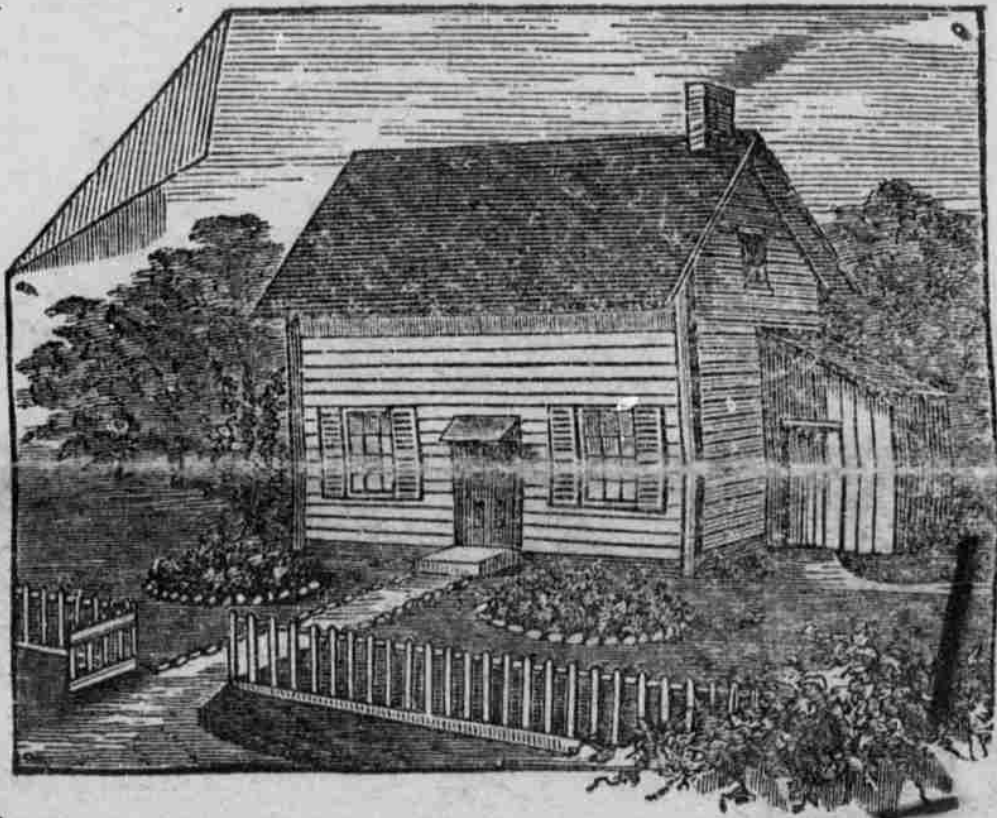
Men the cause of their own Misfortunes.

In mingling with the bus multitude that throngs the theatre of life, and casting around us an observing eye, we may glean many lessons of wisdom. Evil examples abound and these are to be studied and AVOIDED. Good ones are also to be found, and these should command our IMITATION as well as admiration. We journey through a country so full of devious roads and winding paths, that sometimes it is difficult to determine which is

fire to your house or brain you with a piece of your own furniture in sweet forgetfulness that you have been his friend in time of need. He can cheat in trade almost as deftly as a Christian and exhibit a great many other vices which belong to a high state of civilization. Arabi has himself shown powers of deception of a high order, and if he would resign and emigrate to America he could become a first class politician, or a splendid railroad President, or a defrauding cashier of a rich corporation, and it would not be necessary for him to change his moral nature in the very least. He would here find himself among his equals, one of a class of men who can steal an office and then use its influence for personal gain. Yes, he is a rare man in Egypt, but he would feel entirely at home in this country.—Ex.

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ed Thyme, and Sage, and Summer Savory, and similar treasures for the good woman's culinary uses, while a patch of Tansy and Peppermint were sometimes grown for the good man's bitters.

These too are fast passing away. The old houses which were considered so nice and grand, and which the carpenters made somewhat in the similitude of packing boxes, but which sheltered much of beautiful home life and were often brim full of happiness, became old, or too small, or too plain, and with the aid of architects and builders, new houses are being erected, with handsome chimneys and pointed gables and curious porches and strange windows that one might almost think emanated from fairy land. With new houses come changes and improvements in the garden. The old flowers and flower beds are no more; the "front yard" has become a lawn, and instead of flowers a few weeks in the year, there are now beds of unbroken beauty from early Spring until the Frost King lays his cold hand upon leaf and flower.

The change has done much to make people better, healthier and happier; but its happiest effects are with the women and children, affording healthful recreation and ennobling amusement. Some of the men, we fear, are enjoying blessings they neither appreciate nor deserve. We have heard of a few rare cases left who try to show their manhood by contempt of beauty. They are, however, remnants of a race almost extinct. Men of brains are helpers in the good work, and nobly aid the weaker and wiser ones in making homes of beauty. Nothing has afforded us more pleasure than the demands we are constantly receiving from Teachers for suggestions for the improvement of School houses and their surroundings. Many Teachers obtain Flower Seeds that they distribute among the Scholars who take pleasure in their culture, and little prizes are often awarded to the most successful. In some cases we have allowed Teachers to offer a year's subscription to our MAGAZINE for a prize, and shall be happy to do so in many more cases. This has transformed many an unsightly box of a school into a pretty rural nest as

the straightforward way, and we are in danger of turning to the right hand or to the left very often, but the examples afforded by the history and condition of others if properly studied, would generally prove finger-posts in doubtful cases to point us on the right road.

We have little doubt that the exercise of a moderate share of wisdom and prudence in, at least, nine cases out of ten, will enable us to escape most of the ills of life. Indeed, so satisfied are we that men are generally the cause of their own misfortunes, that whenever we see a poor half-starved-looking soul wandering about with holes in his elbows and his toes peeping out of his shoes, we say to ourselves, "that man has been imprudent." "Perhaps dishonest men have swindled him out of his wages." We ask you, gentle reader, when you behold such a spectacle, to apply the test and see whether you differ much from us in the conclusion.

ARABI AS A POLITICIAN.

The Arab is a born gossip, rivaling in his ability to manufacture news at short notice—a New England sewing circle. If you ask him what is happening, he looks at you with a scrutinizing glance, makes up his mind what kind of news you want and then coolly starts to tell you a quantity of stuff he makes up as he goes along. The Arab is a gifted man in many other respects. He can kiss your feet if you are to do him a service, and after you have done it he will set



CORPORATIONS.

"Great corporations and consolidated monopolies are fast seizing the avenues of power that lead to the control of the government. It is an open secret that they rule States through procured Legislatures and corrupted courts; that they are strong in Congress; and that they are unscrupulous in the use of means to conquer prejudice and acquire influence. This condition of things is truly alarming; for unless it be changed quickly and thoroughly, free institutions are doomed to be subverted by an oligarchy resting on a basis of money and of corporate power.—David Davis.